From the Watergate Transcripts

Post 5/16/74

2 Versions of 1 Talk

What follows are two excerpts from the text of the President's Watergate transcripts, which are labeled for convenience, A and B. In the actual text itself, they appeared in sequence over three pages (857-859) of the transcript. That is to say, B immediately followed A. What makes them worthy of careful scrutiny is that A and B are in fact transcriptions of the same fragment of conversation between the President and Assistant Attorney General Henry Petersen, apparently made by two different transcribers. Inadvertently, both were included in the final version made public. The more conspicuous discrepancies have been italicized.

Excerpt A	Excerpt B
HP Personally, (inaudible) well I've been (inaudible) and *have advised the jury of that fact and two that Gray,* from what Titus who has (inaudible) of the (inaudible) over there has to go in to see Sirica.	HP (Inaudible) question. (Inaudible) I told him one, I would be willing to go (inaudible) and *advise his lawyers of that fact and two that they*—and by that I mean Titus who has the best relationship with Sirica over there—is going to have to wait and see Sirica, ah—
P I don't think (inaudible) that's (inaudible).	P (Inaudible)
HP That's (inaudible). I don't think he will do anything unless it's in the current (inaudible) of proceeding he's in (inaudible). I can't conceive a point which of Titus and—if there.	HP That's a problem. That's a risk we would have to take. I don't think he will do anything unless it is the context of a proceeding in his court. I can't conceive of him urging the (inaudible) of Titus and (inaudible).
P This timing thing I think is terribly important—you know.	P (Inaudible) timing on this is terribly important you know, because
HP I think it is.	HP I understand it is
P *Can't have the President*—after all—after all these months and what we've gone through and now once I have learned something of it *I say "bah."*	P *You can't have the press*—after all these months and what we have gone through and all. Once, I find something out—*I say—ACT!*
HP No—no. Well P Better we.	P Better we . . .
HP I think we ought to talk of alternatives in general terms.	HP Well, I think we ought to talk of (inaudible) in more general terms, Mr. President.
P *We can't.* No, the announcement—what I had in mind would be (inaudible) announcement—still to the (inaudible) going to name several other people who were involved—(inaudible) because of the people named (inaudible) language used. (Inaudible) some people (inaudible) judgment (inaudible) matter for the President (inaudible) special, I'm going to call him special counsel (inaudible) this case (inaudible) possibility before he walks into that open court (inaudible) can't get to that today (inaudible) meeting with (inaudible)?	P *You can't.* No—the announcement — what I had in mind would be—the announcement—stick to developments and if he's going to name—several other people were involved (inaudible) other people—then my concern—were wrong and (inaudible) abuse and something has been charged. And that the President (inaudible)—I'm going to tell them that the (inaudible) Counsel has resigned.